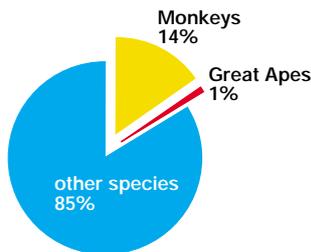


83% (53 species) of all primates native to Africa live in the tropical forest. Primates, including the Great Apes, account statistically for only a small part of the bushmeat trade. Monkeys produce few offspring, have a long maturation phase and therefore a low reproduction rate, which makes them very susceptible to even low pressure through hunting.

In some countries, primate meat makes up a higher percentage of bushmeat. In Gabon, more than 41% of animals killed are primates because people like the taste of their meat. On a market in PR Congo, **45.7% of the meat offered over 18 days was primate meat.** In the capital Brazzaville, the market included 7% elephant meat and an equal percentage of great apes' meat.



Composition of market meat (total of 4 African countries).

Hunters have stated that they not only hunt primates for subsistence and market sales, but because primates also plunder their fields or can be used as bait for large cats. In the 80s, monkeys, mainly guenons and colobus, made up 79% of all primates killed in the DR Congo.

The effects of hunting are particularly severe in the case of endemic species like the Mandrill or Preuss's Guenon, which occur in one small area only.

In Cameroon, **60% of a hunter's income is made up by the sale of duikers and Red Colobus.** Red Colobus is a very popular game because it lives in large noisy groups and is therefore very easy to hunt. Even in areas with high hunting pressure, this species obviously does not change its behaviour. Therefore whole groups are killed.



The **Drill** is one of the most endangered primates in Africa. Drills live in groups of 15-30 individuals. They range only in the border region of Nigeria and Cameroon, as well as on the isle of Bioko (Equatorial Guinea). It is estimated that numbers are **less than 5000 animals.** Deforestation has split their population area into forest islands, so that groups are isolated from each other and their genetic material can no longer be exchanged, resulting in an inbreeding problem.

Drills are **favourite prey** for hunters: a study in the Korup National Park/Cameroon showed in 1988 that 7% of a hunter's income comes from the sale of drill meat. Hunters do not come across these primates very often but when they do, they usually kill the whole group.

Since 1996, market studies have been carried out in Bioko. On the market of the island capital Malabo alone, game meat with value of US\$ 13,000 is being traded every month. There are two large ethnic groups on Bioko, the Bubi and the Fang. The latter control the bushmeat trade and are politically more influential. While the Bubi mainly eat the meat of Blue Duiker, porcupines and grasscutters, the Fang prefer primates - mainly drills and other large species. Lately, Bioko has been importing **bushmeat from the mainland - because the island has been hunted out.**

Completely or almost exterminated during the last 10-15 years as examples:

- Black-White Colobus in western Ghana and East Ivory Coast
- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus of western Ghana and eastern Ivory Coast - **recently declared extinct!**
- the Red Colobus in Cameroon
- the Grey-Cheeked Mangabey in an area of the DR Congo
- the Chimpanzee population in a park of the Ivory Coast
- Guereza, Red Colobus, Red Guenon and Diana Monkey in an area of the Ivory Coast



A shot Diana Monkey is offered for sale at the Ivory Coast.



Caught as a youngster, abused as a toy, destined for the pot: Black Crested Mangabey.